

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HUD-01 OES-09 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 18020

DEPT PASS HUD FOR HANCOCK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, TECH, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: U.S.-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: BUILDING
MATERIALS (10.03) SOVIET REPLY TO SIMONS VISIT
CANCELLATION

REF: (A) STATE 183353, (B) MOSCOW 17758, (C) MOSCOW
16997

1. ON AUGUST 1 VLADIMIR SHKAVARKO, HEAD OF THE
FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION OF GOSSTROY, CALLED IN
ACTING SCICOUNS TO DELIVER LETTER (DATED JULY 28)
FROM SOVIET CHAIRMAN OF 10.03 WORKING GROUP, I. I.
ISHCHENKO, TO HUD ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIMONS, WHICH
RESPONDS TO THE SIMONS LETTER IN REF A ANNOUNCING
HIS DECISION TO CANCEL HIS VISIT TO THE USSR.
INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE ISHCHENKO LETTER
FOLLOWS PARA 2 BELOW. ORIGINAL POUCHED TO HUD
FOR HANCOCK.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. SIMONS: I CONFIRM THE
RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF JULY 20, IN WHICH YOU
STATE YOUR DECISION TO CANCEL THE VISIT OF THE
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AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON "BUILDING
MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS" PLANNED BY OUR AGREEMENT
WITH YOU FOR JULY 31.

AS YOU KNOW, THIS MEETING SHOULD HAVE OCCURRED IN
THE USSR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL

OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN
COMMISSION ON HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION.

THE ONE-SIDED CANCELLATION BY YOU OF THE WORKING
GROUP DAMAGES THE CAUSE OF WIDENING SCIENTIFIC
TECHNICAL TIES IN THE AREA OF CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND THE MOTIVES ADDUCED IN YOUR
LETTER FOR THIS DECISION ARE FOR US COMPLETELY
UNACCEPTABLE AND CANNOT BE CONSIDERED OTHERWISE THAN
IMPERMISSABLE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF THE SOVIET UNION.

AS BEFORE, WE CONSIDER THAT SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL
COOPERATION ON THE PRINCIPLE OF FULL EQUALITY WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENT ON
CONSTRUCTION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERESTS
OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SINCERELY, I. ISHCHENKO. END
TEXT.

3. SHKAVARKO'S ORAL PRESENTATION GENERALLY FOLLOWED
LINE OF ISHCHENKO LETTER: HOWEVER, HE ADDED COMMENT
THAT SIMONS HIMSELF HAD MADE THE DECISION TO CANCEL
THE VISIT. IN REPLY, ACTING SCICOUNS NOTED THAT
U.S. REMAINS INTERESTED IN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL S&T
COOPERATION, REGRETTED THE CONDITIONS WHICH HAD LED
TO CANCELLATION OF THE SIMONS VISIT, AND ADDED THAT
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THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO SEND A DELEGATION WAS
ENTIRELY A U.S. MATTER AND COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED
INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS -- AT WHICH
POINT SHKAVARKO ABRUPTLY CLOSED THE MEETING.

4. COMMENT: THE LANGUAGE OF THE ISHCHENKO LETTER
CLOSELY FOLLOWS THAT OF KIRILLIN LETTER TO PRESS
ON S&T JCM CANCELLATION (REF B), ESPECIALLY IN ITS
VAGUE MENTION OF DAMAGE TO COOPERATION CAUSED BY THE
SIMONS VISIT CANCELLATION. SOVIET APPROACH TOWARD
FURTHER COOPERATION IN THE HOUSING AGREEMENT WAS
PROBABLY MORE ACCURATELY REFLECTED BY SOVIET
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY THERENT'YEV, WHO ON THE WAY OUT
OF THE MEETING URGED AN EARLY U.S. REPLY TO SOVIET
PROPOSAL TO HOLD HOUSING AGREEMENT EXECUTIVE SECRE-
TARIES MEETING AUGUST 21-27, IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR
JCM, SCHEDULED FOR WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 8.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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